

APR 02 2008

Docket No. F-8721

Ser. No. 10/541,682

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1. (Currently Amended) A one-way clutch, comprising:
 - an outer ring;
 - an inner ring disposed within said outer ring to define an annular space between the outer ring and the inner ring;
 - engagement members disposed in said annular space;
 - a clutch spring formed of a plate spring member which is disposed in said annular space and has pocket openings disposed circumferentially at regular intervals, the pocket openings being defined by base portions of said clutch spring extending in a circumferential direction of said one-way clutch on first and second opposing sides of said pocket openings, and column portions which extend in an axial direction of said one-way clutch and third and fourth opposing sides of said pocket openings;
 - said engagement members being disposed in said pocket openings;
 - said clutch spring being formed to have tongues that extend respectively into said pocket openings from said column portions of said clutch spring, said clutch spring being formed such that after formation and prior to introduction of

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said engagement members into said pocket openings, said tongues extend inclined relative to said base portions so as to define a formed angle in the range of 20° to 30° relative to the base portions when no pressure is applied to the tongues;

said engagement members are disposed in said pocket openings so as to apply pressure to said tongues to deflect said tongues beyond said formed angle thereby producing a bias on said engagement members to move said engagement member toward engagement with said inner ring and outer ring, wherein each of said tongues is deflected by said engagement member in a range of 5° to 15° beyond said formed angle.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) A one-way clutch, comprising:
an outer ring;
an inner ring disposed within said outer ring to define an annular space between the inner ring and the outer ring;
engagement member disposed in said annular space;
a clutch spring formed of a plate spring member and which is placed in said annular space and has first and second plate spring sides respectively facing said inner ring and said outer ring, and said plate spring member having pocket openings disposed circumferentially at regular intervals, said pocket openings being

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defined by annular base portions of said clutch spring extending in a circumferential direction of said one-way clutch on first and second opposing sides of said pocket openings, and column portions which extend in an axial direction of said one-way clutch and third and fourth opposing sides of said pocket openings;

said engagement members being disposed in said pocket openings;

said plate spring member having tongues formed therein which extend into said pocket openings from said column portions and which are deflected by contact with said engagement members so as to bias said engagement members;

said tongues being formed in said plate spring member so as to each have sequentially a first bend adjacent a supporting one of said column portions, a second bend, and a third bend, said first, second and third bends being meandering bends each having a center of curvature positioned offset from said first plate spring side of said annular base portions when formed in said plate spring member, and between said inner ring and said annular base portions when said clutch spring is installed in said annular space, said tongues each terminating in a tip end portion extending from said third bend, and said tip end portion extends inclined relative to said base portions so as to define a formed angle when no pressure is applied to the tongues; and

said tongues being so formed in said plate spring member such that prior to disposal in said annular space and said contact with said engagement members, and when in a state absent application of pressure and resultant deflection, a first

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distance from the tip end portion to said first plate spring side of said annular base portions is larger than a second distance between a most distal point of said second bend to said plate spring side of said annular base portions, and radii of curvature of said first, second and third bends are in a range of 0.2 to 0.6 mm, wherein each of said tongues is deflected by said engagement member in a range of 5° to 15° beyond said formed angle.